



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

to recalling some of the main incidents in the general financial history of the country, such as the panics of 1837 and later years.

The thoroughness with which the topics are treated may be gathered from the fact that in one chapter of twenty pages there are "brief sketches" of twenty-six institutions.

Practically the only statements which throw light on the subject of the book, considered as a movement or as a great public institution, are that the trust companies have always done a miscellaneous business, that the trust functions were of minor importance in the earlier days, and that in later years the bank end of the companies' business has grown so large as to make them important competitors of banks properly so-called.

As already remarked, the book will interest people who are now connected with trust companies, or who have a personal interest as descendants or friends in those who have created and officered these great institutions in the past. A banker will be able to while away an interesting half-hour in turning over its pages. The book is attractive in physical appearance.

DAVID KINLEY.

Ulysses S. Grant. By LOUIS A. COOLIDGE. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1917. Pp. xi, 596.)

ONE takes up each new biography of Grant with the sort of interest with which a physician receives a new treatise on cancer. He is a problem, as yet unsolved, which will probably be solved, and each unread attempt may contain the solution. It is apparent that it was the enigma of Grant's personality which chiefly attracted Mr. Coolidge to this study, to which incitement was added some personal acquaintance. His study of Orville H. Platt, and the miniature portraits inserted here and there in that biography and this, reveal, moreover, in the author a liking for that type of public man to which we apply the term stalwart, although such liking does not amount to bias. While Mr. Coolidge is especially a business man, with political experience, and journalism came in his career before historical study, he thoroughly lives up to the traditions of a family in which book-making has been an avocation for 150 years, and he has turned out a workmanlike piece of historical scholarship. He has used the best books relating to the subject, and particularly everything personally relating to Grant, except the material in the *Civil War Records*. He has not, however, familiarized himself with recent monographic literature, or with the economic and social movements of the time, which emphatically influenced Grant's career, although they left his personality untouched.

The book falls into two distinct parts. The first, pages 1 to 201, treats of Grant to the close of the Civil War. Here it seems to the reviewer that Mr. Coolidge is less successful than some recent military

writers in showing how Grant grew during the war. He seems also not to possess a sufficient background of military knowledge to give force to his military criticism. Grant, however, both man and boy, by quotation and incident, stands out more clearly than in any previous account. In fact, he emerges here as an understandable human being, and the main lines of characterization seem likely to be final.

The second portion, pages 202 to 565, gives his later career, being chiefly devoted to his presidency. Here Grant receives relatively slight attention, the book becomes chiefly a critique, with a favorable tendency, of the administration. The discussions of the disputes in which Grant was involved, and of the scandals of the time, are much less careful and convincing than those of Mr. Rhodes, though here and there the judgment is somewhat more in accord with the prevailing tendencies. The view is still East Anglican, but represents Boston club opinion rather than Cambridge. The author's general opinion of Grant is fundamentally that of Mr. Rhodes, but Mr. Coolidge presents it with vigor, while Mr. Rhodes seems always to be forcing his will to believe in opposition to the facts.

One striking trait which Mr. Coolidge emphasizes is Grant's abhorrence of war and bloodshed. To most readers the following quotation from the second inaugural is probably unfamiliar: "Rather do I believe that our Great Maker is preparing the world, in his own good time, to become one nation, speaking one language, and when armies and navies will no longer be required." Another striking fact is that, if Mr. Coolidge is right, Grant remains unchanged after the Civil War. While this seems, in the main, true, it has always seemed to the reviewer that there was evidence that the strife of politics produced a slight moral coarsening, which the strife of battle had not. It is somewhat disheartening, although certainly human, that a man whose reputation as President had been smirched by the infidelities of so many friends, and who had borne it with such a fidelity, splendid in the man though questionable in the public servant, should say, when touched in his private affairs, "I have made it the rule of my life to trust a man long after other people gave him up; but I don't see how I can ever trust any human being again."

As is often the case with authors who lack definite historical training, the treatment of minor characters is far inferior to that of the main figure. It is obvious that while everything of and on Grant has been read, the knowledge of other men has been gained incidentally. Many of these characterizations, however, are based on personal reminiscences, and are lively and interesting. The study of Grant is much more, it is a definite contribution toward the understanding of a man whose peculiar form of greatness has as yet baffled all students, and, in some respects, it is apt to prove final.

CARL RUSSELL FISH.